

ACF Meeting Minutes

26th October 2021

Attendees: Gavin Clark (chair), Rachel Martin, Nicolo Silvani, Hanne Bruhn, Francesco Sani, Daniel Verhamme.

Minutes from the last meeting have been posted and Rachel will take minutes this month.

Welcome and introductions

Met some people at the COP26 rally and invited them to the volunteer meeting as they seemed interested. Gavin will aim to be a bit more coordinated in sending out the monthly newsletter in the week before the meeting to remind everyone of the upcoming meeting.

Consultations

1. **Nestrans - Aberdeen/Laurencekirk corridor.** This is closed and our response is up on the website. We focused on the fact there's an enormous potential and demand for an Aberdeen-Stonehaven path. Nestrans have looked at this in the past and done a feasibility study.

Hanne went to a Sustrans meeting at the beginning of the month and they are interested in linking up cities with 10k or more people. They're also interested in looking at consultations that have already been done. There are potentially four consultations we could share

<https://aberdeencycleforum.org.uk/consultations/>

Laruenekirk-Aberdeen, Westhill-Aberdeen, Ellon-Aberdeen,
Murcar-Blackdog

Sustrans also looking to fix existing routes.

2. **Various city-wide traffic measures** - consultation that's not public yet. Mostly to do with parking restrictions and small traffic measures where people may have complained to the Council about something. One proposal is to make

Hazlehead Avenue one way. The recycling facility was popular during lockdown last year because people were cleaning their houses and they introduced a one-way system at the time. This is now gone but they're considering bringing it back again and making permanent. We don't have any problems with this as long as it doesn't reduce permeability for cycling. Groats Road they've proposed cycle contraflow and on Hazlehead Avenue they've proposed cyclists use the running track. We think that's OK except that we don't know the status of the running track - is it a shared path? Do schools use it? The one-way doesn't go all the way to the roundabout but there is a direct traffic-free route that takes you in a straight line to miss the roundabout but leaves you on the wrong side of Queens Rd if you are heading into town. Nico asked if the one-way on Hazlehead Av will be two lanes? It isn't clear but possibly one lane is to allow traffic to queue for the recycling centre.

3. **Local Transport Strategy Main Issues Report** - closes on 14th November. They're going to start writing their next local transport strategy and the first thing they do is go out and ask people to identify the main issues. We've got a couple of weeks to come up with a response. It will be similar to what we've said before.

Nico says one of the main issues is that Glasgow has announced a cycling network but there's nothing similar planned for Aberdeen - it hasn't even been suggested. Once you have a map or a plan for a network it takes another 5-10 years to implement it but we haven't even taken the first step. Gavin says 6 or 7 years ago they planned a small network in the city centre masterplan but none of it has been progressed yet. They also published their active travel strategy but it falls short of what's needed - lacks targets and milestones for example.

<https://consultation.aberdeencity.gov.uk/planning/aberdeen-lts-main-issues/>

4. **South College Street** - Gavin emailed the council about the plan (it's just about car parking) and the council replied and said there would be cycle parking so we decided not to submit anything for this one.
5. **Events – COP26 related activity** - We attended the COP26 rally on the 23rd of October and Gavin gave a speech. The turnout was around 100 people. Gavin's speech will be posted on the blog at the end of this week. After the rally we'd had a really nice get together in the cafe at Duthie Park, partly just to take the opportunity to meet up, but also to bid farewell to Liz Lindsey, one of our long-standing members who is leaving Aberdeen. Rachel had posted about it

on the website including a clip of a fantastic letter to the Evening Express from Dave Lindsey (Liz's late husband and one of the founders of ACF) from 1993 about the cycle lanes on North Deeside Road. The lack of progress in almost 30 years is astonishing.

A couple of people are thinking of cycling from Aberdeen to Glasgow for the COP 26 event. Daniel is keen and will likely leave on Friday morning and then join the people in Kinross on Saturday morning.

6. Campaigns -

Art mural - haven't heard anything back from Mary yet. Rachel emailed her again today. If we don't hear back by the end of the week we'll contact someone else. Hanne also spotted a fund specifically for art on the cycle network that we could apply for.

Accessibility campaign - we haven't done anything more with that. The action in the minutes from last time we'll carry forward in this meeting which is to send it forward to two Councillors (one in city and one in shire). Gavin to do.

The no-idling banner has been at a school in Stonehaven for just over a month so Gavin will reach out to them to see how it has been going.

7. Other activities and goings-on

Aberdeen harbour - a lady got in touch with us when she was writing to the harbour board to ask about the possibility of allowing cyclists on the harbour territory as a means of bypassing the busy roads. The council replied and said they'd pass it onto the operations manager but it didn't seem hopeful.

A number of years ago the ACF asked the same question as a way to bypass Market Street but they were against the idea. Gavin took the opportunity to reply to let them know about a potential route to FootDee via Shiprow and Regent's Quay.

Tools for schools - Someone from St Machar Academy got in touch and they were setting up a bike shop but didn't have any tools and wanted to know if we had any suggestions for how to get some. Gavin put it on Facebook and someone pointed out a Cycle Scotland grant which Gavin shared with the school. We will also put it in our next email newsletter.

Community empowerment meeting - Gavin went to this meeting which was

Council-run. It was a 2 hour meeting and an introduction to community planning and empowerment but not especially useful. It's all about helping deliver the local outcome improvement plan for community planning but they cover the full breadth of issues the city faces and the one or two measures which apply to active travel are a bit swamped amongst everything else. Gavin will keep an eye on what happens and could engage again if there was a way that we could contribute specifically on the active travel measures.

8. **Any other business -**

Countesswells Road - Gavin challenged the Council to see whether they'd done any studies of volume and speed on this road. Sandra Macdonald got back to him with a response saying yes they've checked the traffic speed and essentially that they think it's all fine. Gavin felt they didn't recognise there was an issue with traffic speed there because it's a rural road with no pavement and the limit is 60 miles per hour. But horses use the road and cyclists and we feel the speed limit should be lowered. There's no pavement and no street lighting. By contrast, parallel to this road is the A944 which has a 40mph limit.

Francesco raised the study about Spaces for People and said there were very few responses from cyclists. Rachel added a couple more after Francesco sent round the email a couple of weeks ago.

<https://spaces-2750a.web.app/?lang=en#guide>

We'll share the link on social media.

Nico brought up the issue of newsletters for members and publicising monthly meetings. Rachel suggested we publish newsletters as blog posts on our website. Hanne suggested EventBrite for the monthly meetings. Nico will create a Facebook event for the next monthly meeting to see how that goes.

Daniel said it had been suggested by the PoP organisers he could involve a local politician to wave him off on the ride to Glasgow and wondered who he should approach. We discussed if there were any Councillors who would cycle to meet Daniel on Deeside Way for a photo. Gavin suggested we invite every councillor to join us on a bike ride and then see who turns up. It wasn't likely we'd get a big turnout (A few years ago we arranged a screening in the Belmont Cinema of Bikes vs Cars and we invited every Councillor and even offered to pay for their ticket but none of them took up the offer!).

The Civitas 2020 blue stands around town where you can fix your bike are not promoted anywhere. Can we ask city council to start promoting them? We could put a map on our website showing where they all are. Rachel suggested

contacting Jon Barron about it.

The police were on campus at RGU yesterday to give some sessions on bike security and Nico discussed the problem of lack of infrastructure and admitted he sometimes cycles on the pavements to which the police said it's ok to do that. There are pretty mixed messages on this and it probably depends on the view of individual officers.

Hanne shared this link of cycle accidents that the police record but we know the police don't record all the accidents. One of our own members went to the hospital by ambulance recently after being hit by a car on a roundabout and a month later the police still have not interviewed her -

<https://bikedata.cyclestreets.net/collisions/#17/51.51137/-0.10498>

9. **Date of next meeting** - 30 November